

Vernor Baird

Vernor
Baird
Ram Sheet
C. Pile
J. W. P. P. P.

WILLIAM BAIRD

William Baird, second son of John and Elizabeth Marshall Baird, was born November 3, 1849 in Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland and moved with his parents at the age of six to Greenock. There he attended school and worked in a tailor shop for four years. Because of low wages he pawned his watch to get funds for a trip to Glasgow where he found employment for 14 shillings or about \$3.50 a week. He was working here when his parents contacted him that they were sailing to America to be with the Saints in Utah. He met them in Liverpool, and they sailed to Castle Garden, N. Y., and because of food rationing, were hungry all the way. William and his brother Robert came across the plains in separate companies from their parents, as they obtained employment driving teams and wagons. They met their families in the old Tithing Yard in Salt Lake, thinking they had been killed on the plains. On February 5, 1880, William married Janet Murdoch, who had been born Oct. 18, 1855. They were the parents of nine children: John, born March 15, 1881; Jessie Lennox, born Aug. 15, 1882; William Murdoch, born Oct. 6, 1884; Elizabeth Marshall, born March 25, 1887; Ernest Wallace, born April 17, 1889; James Alexander, born Feb. 26, 1891; David, born Dec. 23, 1892; Bruce, born April 6, 1896 and Margaret born Sept. 20, 1898 and died a month later. //02

N BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

Janet died Sept. 23, 1898 after giving birth to her last child. William later married Isabelle Snedden, and to them was born one child: Thomas Snedden, on Nov. 8, 1903. William died in Carey, Idaho, on June 28, 1946. //02

John Palaster
Sheep Herder
Quiver

March 14
1881

MILES BATTY AND MARY HENRIETTA MECHAM

Miles Batty, son of Joseph Batty and Nancy Barker, born March 2, 1832, at Ossett, Yorkshire, England. He died April 4, 1913. Married Mary Henrietta Mecham July 24, 1864, Salt Lake City, daughter of Ephraim Mecham and Polly Derby, Utah pioneers of 1852. She was born April 10, 1848, at Cainesville, Iowa, and died December 21, 1899, at Wallsburg, Utah.

Miles had heard the Mormon Elders preaching and was very interested. This in-

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WALLSBURG BIOGRAPHIES

terest caused bad feelings in his family. He was saving money out of his small wages to come to America. His mother found this while straightening his drawer and learned by questioning about his plans to go to America. His parents almost disowned him.

At 17 years of age he left by sail boat for America. In 1850 he came to Utah with the A. O. Smoot merchandising train, walking and driving an ox team. He lived with Parley P. Pratt after he arrived. His possessions were a pair of thin trousers, a calico shirt, an old straw hat and a pair of shoes. He was hired to tend cattle and sheep and after some time was discharged without any pay and his clothes were thread-bare.

Next he lived with a Rank family for years. During this time he learned the trade of masonry from a man named Romell. Also he became a first-class mechanic, a trade he followed much of his life. Later he lived with the Ephraim and Polly Mecham family, where he fell in love with and married their daughter, Mary Henriette.

He followed his trade of plastering. In 1853 he bought a farm in Wallsburg. In February, 1857, he took a contract to lath and plaster the officers' quarters being built in Ft. Duchesne. On February 6th, he and his sons, Miles M. and Ephraim A., left Wallsburg for Midway, where John, Arthur, Joe and Will Watkins, John Mantle and John Abplanalp with their teams and outfits joined them. They left on the 7th and got to McGuire's mill in Daniel Canyon the next day to the head of the canyon. From there on across Strawberry Valley. They had a terrible journey fighting five and six foot drifts of snow. They had to pack their belongings on the horses and leave their wagons and sleighs behind and walk. There was little to eat, their clothes were wet and their hands and feet were frozen. Many more trials beset them. It took them 12 days to reach Ft. Duchesne. They only had food for five days. They finished lathing and plastering these quarters toward the end of May and went to Fort Bridger to plaster houses. When this work was finished they went by train to Park City and walked home from there. They had been gone six months.

In October 1858, Miles took a contract to plaster the soldiers' quarters at Fort Duchesne, also the hospital. He and Ephraim

Batty and Ephraim Haws did this job. As before, the weather was very stormy and cold and did much to hinder their work.

In 1907 his son Miles M. went on a mission to England and was called to preside over the branch at Halifax, Yorkshire, at the home town of his father. His father visited there, too, at this time, 60 years after he left. His niece, Eliza Thorpe, took him to his old home to see his youngest sister, Elizabeth, the only one left there. He visited many familiar places.

He resided in Wanship and Wallsburg, Utah.

Their children were: Miles Marquis, Ephraim Albert, Mary Elvira, George Leo, Charles Hugh, William Wallace, Celestia Velate and Emma Alberta. 923

farmer - cattle
lath & plaster
mechanic
pioneer
industrial